

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TORONT 00602 112207Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02
H-02 /055 W

-----112235Z 001016 /66

R 111944Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL TORONTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5129
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS TORONTO 0602

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS:PGOV, CA
SUBJECT: TORONTO REACTION TO LEVESQUE NATIONAL ASSUMBLY SPEECH

REF: TORONTO 586

1. WHILE THERE NEWS COVERAGE OF LEVESQUE OPENING SPEECH IN QUEBEC NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, ADDRESS DID NOT ATTRACT WIDE EDITORIAL OR COLUMNIST ATTENTION AND WAS OBVIOUSLY OF SECONDAY IMPORTANCE TO MRS. TRUDEAU'S ACTIVITIES IN TORONTO AND NEW YORK AND BURNING LOCAL ISSUES SUCH AS NEED FOR CHIVALRY AMONG RIDERS OF THE TORONTO SUBWAYS.

2. BUSINESS CONTACTS SAW SPEECH AS CHANGING NOTHING AND ARE WAITING FOR BUDGET TO COME DOWN TO SEE WHAT PQ REALLY MEANS.

3. PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT CONTACTS NOTED LACK OF LOCAL REACTION AND OBSERVED THIS NORMAL IN INTER-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS UNLESS MEDIA GIVES EXTENSIVE COVERAGE. ONE INFLUENTIAL PROVINCIAL AIDE CALLED SPEECH A "MIFFLE OF THE ROAD SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC DOCUMENT" WHICH CONTAINED "AN EXTREMELY AMBITIOUS PROGRAM FOR A PROVINCE THAT IS ALMOST BROKE." HE OBSERVED
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TORONT 00602 112207Z

HOW ONTARIO HAD LOOKED AT FREE DENTAL CARE SOME YEARS BACK BUT HAD CONCLUDED THAT THE PROVINCE COULD NOT AFFORD IT. HE ALSO CALLED PUBLIC AUTO INSURANCE PLANS "BOONDOGGLES" WHICH ALWAYS DRAIN FROM THE PUBLIC TREASURY IN THE END.

4. WHAT IS OF CONCERN IN SPEECH TO ONTARIO, ACCORDING TO CONTACT, IS POSSIBLE BACKLASH ON "CHARTER OF FRENCH" -- "HHEM

ABSOLUTELY NORMAL PRIMACY OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE." DESPITE
LIBERAL PARTY CLAIMS TO CONTRARY, ONTARIO GOVERNMENT BELIEVES
IT HAS POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS LANGUAGE SERVICES FOR FRANCO
ONTARIANS AND MEDIA SEEMS TO AGREE. CURRENT DISPUTE OVER
CONSTRUCTION FRENCH LANGUAGE HIGH SCHOOL IN ESSEX COUNTY,
SOUTH WESTERN ONTARIO, DEMONSTRATES POLITICAL FACT OF
REACTION AGAINST FRENCH AND FRENCH-SPEAKING MINORITY. REALISM
IS THAT WHILE PROVINCE CAN STEP IN, AS IN THIS CASE WHERE
IT WILL PROPOSE LEGISLATION TO BUILD SCHOOL WHICH LOCAL
AUTHORITIES WILL NOT, THERE IS LIMIT TO WHAT PROVINCE CAN DO
IN FACE OF OPPOSITION TO FRENCH FROM OLD CANADIANS BASED ON
TRADITIONAL FACTORS AND FROM NEW CANADIANS, ENCOURAGED TO
MAINTAIN LANGUAGE AND ATTRIBUTES OF NATIVE CULTURE, WHO FIND
ONE MINORITY, PERHAPS EVEN SMALLER IN NUMBER THAN OTHERS,
GIVEN SPECIAL STATUS. PHILOSOPHICAL AND HISTORICAL ARGUMENTS
HAVE LITTLE IMPACT ON LOCAL CONFRONTATION INVOLVING
ELEMENTS OF SUCH PERSONAL IMPORTANCE AS SCHOOLING AND TAXES.
IN ADDITION THERE IS SIMPLE BIGOTRY BECAUSE OF DIFFERENCE.
THE QUESTION IN ONTARIO IS HOW MUCH POTENTIAL FOR ANTI-
FRENCH REACTION IS THERE? WE SUSPECT THERE IS SO MUCH,
AT LEAST IN MOST OPINIONS, THAT NO RESPONSIBLE POLITICIAN
REALLY WANTS TO GIVE IT THE CHANCE TO COME TO THE SURFACE.
DIGGINS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SECESSION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, SPEECHES, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TORONT00602
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770085-0146
Format: TEL
From: TORONTO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770366/aaaacgua.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4d9f24b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TORONTO 586
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3129238
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TORONTO REACTION TO LEVESQUE NATIONAL ASSUMBLY SPEECH
TAGS: PGOV, CA, QUEBEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4d9f24b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009